

Teacher's Conservation Corner

John Marshall Soil and Water Conservation District

A Letter from the Ed. Spec.

Hello teachers! Welcome back to a new (albeit much different looking) school year. Near the end of last year, I mentioned that I would be leaving the District; however, a global pandemic has a way of messing with even the best laid plans. I am still with the District and will be available to assist you with your education needs this year.

Since in-classroom or field trip programs aren't able to be conducted, this semester, I will be available to host "live" virtual programs via video conferencing. All programs from

previous years are available, but some may work better than others in a virtual environment. Other programs such as Q&A sessions to help students with research, or other demonstrations can be held. Programs for distance learning are being developed and will be announced when ready (see page 2).

Please let me know how I can help you as we navigate unique time period!

Michael Trop
JMSWCD Education Specialist

Education Resources

Here are a few online resources which may be able to help you with some of your distance learning programs.

[VASWCD Online Resources](#): The Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts (VASWCD) has dedicated a page to virtual resources from organizations across the state and country.

[VASWCD YouTube Channel](#): VASWCD also has a YouTube Channel which has compiled videos on natural resource topics from across the state.

[Clifton Institute YouTube Channel](#): The Clifton Institute, located just north of Warrenton, has produced videos on a variety of nature topics.

[Shenandoah National Park Distance Learning](#): Rangers from Shenandoah National Park are able to conduct virtual field trips with students. The site also has interactive curricula and videos.

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Soil Tube Program

The John Marshall Soil & Water Conservation District's main soil program (Soil Tubes) is tailored for third grade students (SOL: 3.1, 3.6). The lesson takes about 30 minutes per class. Each student gets to make a soil tube featuring topsoil, subsoil, and bedrock. The District supplies all the necessary materials for the lesson. With schools in virtual learning, this program will operate a little differently.

A recorded video of the regular soil tube program is

available for students to watch. A live presentation via video conference can also be done. These presentations can be accompanied by individual kits that will allow each student to make a soil tube profile. The kits can be sent home with students to construct using either a tutorial or live video.

If you would like to schedule a "lesson," please contact Michael Trop at: 540-347-3120 x4 or michael.trop@fauquiercounty.gov.

Virtual Watershed Tour

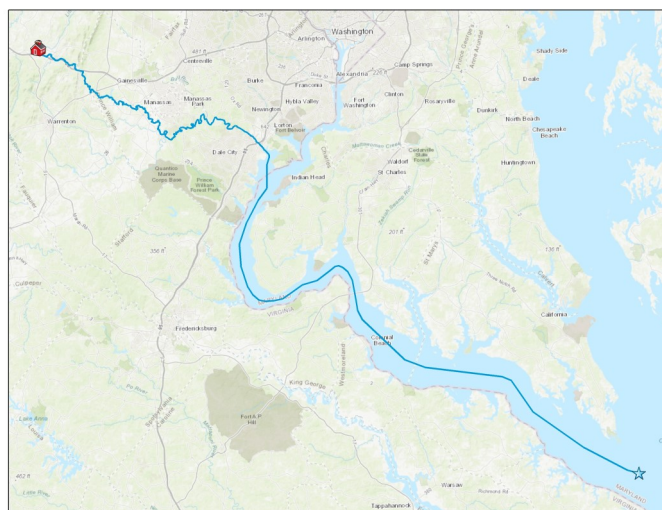
For this school year, a virtual watershed tour has been created for each elementary school. These PowerPoint presentations, geared for 4th grade (SOLs: 4.1, 4.8) take students on a journey from their school through streams and rivers that lead all the way down to the Chesapeake Bay. A tour includes between 14 and 19 stops (depending on the school and where it's located within the watershed) and information about each stop. The information includes (among other things) a picture, a map, and a description of the stream and surrounding land.

These tours are intended to help students better understand their watershed address and allows them to

see how the streams and rivers change over their course. [The tours are available for download from our website](#) (look under "4th Grade"). If you use these tours for your classes, please email Michael Trop (michael.trop@fauquiercounty.gov) with the number of students reached. Watershed tours for other schools (middle/high/private schools) can be developed upon request.



The Rappahannock River as seen from Leedstown, Virginia



The path water takes from Coleman ES to the Chesapeake Bay.

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